

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7135

UNCLAS DUBLIN 1544

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, EI

SUBJ: ILLNESS OF FORMER IRISH PRESIDENT DE VALERA

REF: DUBLIN 1502

1. FORMER PRESIDENT DE VALERA'S HEALTH CONTINUES TO DECLINE.
2. THE FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION MAY BE OF POSSIBLE USE TO THE DEPARTMENT ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS.

BORN MANHATTAN NEW YORK 14 OCTOBER 1882. ONLY CHILD OF VIVION DE VALERA AND CATHERINE (NEE COLL). EDUCATION: NATIONAL SCHOOL BRUREE CO LIMERICK, CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOLS CO. CORK, BLACKROCK INTERMEDIATE AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGES DUBLIN; GRADUATED FORMER ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND; POSTGRADUATE STUDIES ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN. MARRIED 1910 SINEAD (NEE FHLANNAGAIN). (WIFE DECEASED 1/7/75.) CHILDREN VIVION, EAMONN, BRIAN (DEC. 1936), RUADHRI, TOIRLEACH, MAIRIN, EMER.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER, AND TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LECTURER; FOR MANY YEARS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE GAELIC LEAGUE. JOIND IRISH VOLUNTEERS AT FOUNDATION 1913; OFFICER COMMANDING 3RD BATTALION, AND ADJUTANT DUBLIN BRIGADE IRISH VOLUNTEERS 1915-6; COMMANDANT IN IRISH NATIONAL UPRISING EASTER 1916; SENTENCED TO DEATH, SENTENCE COMMUTED TO PENAL SERVITUDE FOR LIFE; RELEASED ON GENERAL AMNESTY JUNE 1917. ELECTED SINN UNCLASSIFIED

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FEIN MP EAST CLARE JULY 1917 AND RE-ELECTED AS PARLIAMENTARY

REPRESENTATIVE FOR CLARE AT SUBSEQUENT GENERAL ELECTIONS UNTIL HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF IRELAND IN 1959; ALSO ELECTED MP FOR EAST-MAYO 1918-21, DOWN (N. IRELAND) 1921-9 AND SOUTH DOWN (N. IRELAND) 1933-7 PRESIDENT OF SINN FEIN 1917-26; PRESIDENT OF IRISH VOLUNTEERS 1917-22; RE-IMPRESIONED MAY 1918; ESCAPED FROM LINCOLN JAIL FEBRUARY 1919; PRESIDENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC 1919-22; VISITED USA SEEKING OFFICIAL RECOGNITION FOR REPUBLIC 1919-20 AND RAISED EXTERNAL LOAN OF SIX MILLION DOLLARS FOR IRISH REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT; REJECTED ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT FOR ANGLO-IRISH TREATY DECEMBER 1921. FOUNDED FIANNA FAIL 1926. PRESIDENT OF FIANNA FAIL 1926-59. LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN IRISH FREE STATE PARLIAMENT 1927-32. PRESIDENT OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IRISH FREE STATE, AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MARCH 1932 TO DECEMBER 1937. INTRODUCED CONSTITUTION OF IRELAND IN DAIL EIREANN 1937; FOLLOWING ENACTMENT BY THE PEOPLE AND COMING INTO OPERATION OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION, BECAME TAOISEACH (HEAD OF GOVERNMENT) AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND DECEMBER 1937 TO FEBRUARY 1948, AND MINISTER FOR EDUCATION 1939-40; LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN DAIL EIREANN FEBRUARY 1948 TO JUNE 1951 AND JUNE 1954 TO MARCH 1957. TAOISEACH AGAIN JUNE 1951 TO JUNE 1954 AND MARCH 1957 TO JUNE 1959. PRESIDENT OF IRELAND 1959-1973.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL OF LEAGE OF NATIONS AT ITS 68TH AND SPECIAL SESSIONS, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 1932. PRESIDENT OF ASSEMBLY OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS 1938.

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